Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0059] as shown below:

[0059] This procedure reduces the estimate of the alternans to around 21 points that spread uniformly over the duration of the alternan signal. This also improves the signal to noise ratio by approximately a factor of 5. In several embodiments, smoothing the estimated alternan signature comprises reducing the number of data points by a factor of between about 5 to 30. Clearly, the number of bins and the bin lengths can be adjusted as appropriate for the length of the alternan estimate. In general, an odd number of bins in the range of 15-25 provides acceptable smoothing while retaining the complex morphology of the alternan signal. The smoothed alternan estimate is designated as *Alt_Smoothed(i,j)*, where *i* is the time position ranging from 1 to about 21 for the *jth* alternan estimate.